

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 2 along with Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicant appreciates the comments of the Examiner and has accordingly, attempted to amend these respective claims to address the 35 U.S.C. §101 issue. If our amendments to the claims do not adequately address this rejection, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone conference in order to remove the 35 U.S.C. §101 issue from this prosecution.

The Office Action indicated that the subject matter of Claims 4-12 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has accordingly, reviewed the subject matter set forth in the dependent Claim 4 and has amended the respective independent Claims 1, 3, 13, 14 and 15 to include what is believed to have been considered the allowable subject matter in the dependent Claim 4.

As can be determined, some of the elements of Claim 4 were already in some independent claims and were not repeated in the amendments.

Dependent Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Finally, applicant submitted prior art references that were found during the prosecution of a co-pending Japanese patent application on October 20, 2010, and would request that these references be reviewed. It is not believed that these references affect the indication of the allowed subject matter, but application would request that they be made of record in the prosecution.

It is believed with these amendments to the independent claims that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will assist in the prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph W. Price', is written over a horizontal line.

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